THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 6th March 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 5-30 p.m., Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Medical institutions in receipt of grants from Government.

* 73 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to place on the table of the House a statement giving the names of Medical Institutions, Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Unani, etc., which are in receipt of grants from Government and the conditions governing such grants?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI :—" A statement[a] containing the particulars asked for in respect of private institutions is placed on the table of the House."

Alleged complaints against Sri Manicka Nayakar, Secretary, Chingleput District Board.

74 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Manicka Nayakar, the Secretary of the Chingleput District Board, has auctioned the A.R.P. walls consisting of bricks worth about Rs. 500 and himself purchased the same for a paltry sum of Rs. 70 and built the compound walls in the site allotted to him by the District Board in Tambaram town-planning area ;

(b) whether complaints were made that Sri Manicka Nayakar has purchased the bricks at a low rate and requests were made to re-auction the same ;

(c) whether the Secretary has ignored their request and took away the bricks for his own use ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the District Board's sanction was not even obtained for auctioning the bricks ;

(e) whether it is a fact the bricks were removed before confirmation of the sale ;

(f) whether it is a fact that the Secretary had utilized the free services of the peons, gardeners and other menials for sorting these bricks and carting them to Tambaram ;

(g) whether it is a fact that the clerks of the District Board office were compelled to subscribe to the ' Dravida Nadu ' a party paper of ' self-respect ' view and the subscriptions were recovered from the salary of the clerks;

(h) whether it is a fact that the Secretary while travelling third class was claiming from District Board second-class travelling allowance and while travelling along with the President in the President's car was claiming motor car allowance ; and

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[a] Printed as Appendix 1 on pages 86–87 infra.

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(i) whether having regard to all these allegations the Government will institute a fresh enquiry into all the charges and deal with the matter suitably?

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" (a), (c) & (f) The bricks of the A.R.P. walls in Panagal Buildings, Saidapet, were auctioned by the Supervisor (District Board Works), Saidapet, in the presence of the Secretary Sri R. C. Manicka Naicker. The sale was knocked down by one Sri Aravamutham Nayudu, and there is nothing on record to show that the bricks were either purchased by the Secretary or utilized by him to build the compound walls in the site allotted to him by the District Board in Tambaram Town-Planning area.

" (b) A complaint was received by the District Board Assistant Engineer to the effect that the bricks had been sold in auction for a low price and that they would fetch more if a re-auction was conducted.

"(d) & (e) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (g) Enquiries show that some of the clerks of the District Board were asked to subscribe to the 'Dravida Nadu' and that the subscriptions were collected by the bill clerk of the District Board Office.

" (h) It is not possible to furnish the information as the allegation is too general and not easily verifiable except after detailed enquiry.

" (i) Yes."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister will cause an enquiry to be made against the Secretary with regard to the allegation that deductions were made from the salaries of clerks towards subscription to the paper and that the balance alone were given to them, as complained by the clerks themselves?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Yes, Sir, an enquiry will be held."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I expect that the officer making the enquiry would call for the District Board servants to give evidence to ascertain the truth of the allegation?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Secretary possesses a car to enable him to draw the motor car allowance?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" I have no information, Sir."

SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" May I know, Sir, whether the man who knocked down the auction was in any way related to the Secretary?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" I have no information, Sir, about it."

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ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, what will be the enquiry that will be conducted? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Sir, there are so many allegations here and the enquiry will be conducted into those allegations."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" From the answer given by the Hon. Minister, it appears that the allegations are not correct. May I ask the Hon. Minister what is the ground for holding an enquiry? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Sir, various allegations have been made against the Secretary. It is said that the bricks were sold at a low price, that the auction was not properly conducted, that the sanction of the District Board was not obtained and that before confirmation by the district board of the auction, the bricks were removed. The answers given here are based upon the reports we had from the concerned authorities. That is why an enquiry will be held."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" How is the Secretary responsible for the conduct of auction? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" Sir, he was present at the auction. It was the supervisor who auctioned the bricks."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Perhaps when the report of the enquiry comes out, it will show how far he is responsible for these things."

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" I don't know if we have got any more information to supply to the hon. Member than what is contained in the answer. That is why the matter will be enquired into."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, from the answer given, we understand that the allegations are incorrect, because the auction was held by somebody else. Therefore, Sir, I should like to know on what specific allegations or charges against the Secretary that an enquiry will be held? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" There are also other allegations against the Secretary, namely, that he was actually travelling in the third class and claiming second class from the District Board and that he drew motor car allowance while he was travelling along with the President in the President's car, etc. We may get more information on these points also from the enquiry."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" The Hon. Minister seems to have said that the allegations are too general and not capable of verification; if so, what is the purpose of the enquiry? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Sir, the facts are there. Everybody can understand them. What is the good of

stating that there is nothing for an enquiry. It has been stated as clearly as possible and the facts are there. What more is required? "

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" We are concerned with the reply given by the Hon. Minister on the floor of the House. From that reply, we understand that the allegations are not correct. How is it possible for anybody to say who is responsible but it is a surprise to hear the Hon. Premier say that the facts are there? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Sir, everything is very fair; what is the good of questioning about it again and again? The facts are there, and merely because all these answers are given in a particular form, it should not be taken that they are wrong."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether any clerk belonging to the District Board has complained to anybody that the Secretary has collected subscription for the 'Dravida Nadu' paper or any other paper? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—" I have no information, Sir."

Irrigation schemes in South Arcot.

* 75 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of major and minor irrigation works in the South Arcot district;

(*b*) whether any major irrigation schemes have been investigated in the past years, and if so, what they are;

(*c*) whether any of them have been kept in abeyance or abandoned on the ground for want of adequate return;

(*d*) whether investigation for impounding the waters of the South Pennar was made in recent years, and if so, what the particulars of the scheme are; and

(*e*) whether the Government propose to undertake this scheme or any other scheme to provide more irrigation facilities in South Arcot district?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" (*a*) There are seven irrigation systems classed as 'major' and six classed as 'minor' in the South Arcot district. In addition there are 404 minor works (tanks and channels) in charge of the Public Works Department.

" (*b*) Yes. The following major irrigation schemes have been investigated in the past :—

(1) Kaliveli swamp reclamation;
(2) Thambipettai odai project;
(3) construction of reservoirs on the Mani nadhi, Muktha nadhi and Gomukhi;
(4) damming the South Pennar and diverting the waters into the Manjmuktha nadhi;